

REMARKS

Claims 30-49 and 54-57 were pending when last examined. With this Response, Applicants' have amended claims 30, 33, 34, 37, 38, 41, 42, 45, 46, 49, and 54-57. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 30-49 and 54-57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,400,996 to Hoffberg et al. ("Hoffberg"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

Claim 30, as amended, recites generating a data structure describing multimedia data and including segment group information that defines first and second segment groups. Each of the first and second segment groups includes a respective plurality of segments selected from a multimedia stream. The segment group information specifies a respective group type and a respective duration for each of said first and second segment groups, and the segment group information includes segment order information defining that the segments within the first segment group are ordered relative to each other according to a time sequence and the segments within the second segment group are unordered relative to each other according to the time sequence. The data structure with the segment group information is stored in the memory.

Hoffberg discloses an adaptive and predictive user interface and a pattern recognition system for programming a multimedia device. *See* Abstract. For example, programs are suggested to a user based on content describing elements (*see* col. 78:3-38); an interface is configured for programming a video cassette recorder ("VCR") (*see* col. 83:61-67); and a directory is recorded on a video tape to track its content (*see* FIG. 19 and col. 92:5 to col. 93:36). Hoffberg, however, fails to disclose the claimed segment group information.

First, although Hoffberg discloses "broadcast material having a first portion and a second portion, wherein the first portion comprises an content segment and the second portion comprises a commercial segment" (*see* col. 77:63-66) and "storing data describing

elements of the content data” (*see* col. 78:7-8), Hoffberg fails to disclose that the broadcast’s first and second portions are stored in a data structure including segment group information that defines the first and second segment groups. Indeed, Hoffberg fails to disclose that the “data describing elements of the content data” define separate groups for the “content segment” and the “commercial segment.”

Second, although Hoffberg discloses that “in a VCR, ... a directory or a catalog is recorded, preferably digitally, containing the programming information, as well as additional information about the recorded programs” (*see* col. 92:8-12), Hoffberg fails to disclose that the directory or the catalog includes segment group information that defines first and second segment groups and includes segment order information defining that the segments within the first segment group are ordered relative to each other according to a time sequence and the segments within the second segment group are unordered relative to each other according to the time sequence.

Third, the Examiner asserted that the tape directory or catalog (col. 93:8-35) anticipates the claimed segment order information defining that segments within the segment group are unordered according to a time sequence. *See* Office Action of August 17, 2006, at page 3. The Examiner also asserted that the content and commercial portions of the broadcast (col. 77:60 to col. 78:40) anticipate the claimed segment order information defining that segments are ordered according to the time sequence. *See id.* at pages 4 and 5. Hoffberg, however, fails to disclose combining the tape directory and the content and commercial portions of the broadcast, as suggested by the Examiner. Neither does Hoffberg disclose segment group information including segment order information defining that broadcast segments are ordered relative to each other according to a time sequence and the tape directory segments are unordered relative to each other according to the time sequence.

Because Hoffberg fails to disclose the claimed segment group information, claim 30 is allowable.

Claims 31-33 and 54-57 depend from claim 30 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 30.

In addition, the dependent claims recite further features that are not disclosed by

Hoffberg. For example, claim 54 recites that the respective group type for each of the first and second segment groups specifies that the first and second segment groups are related to at least two objects represented in the content of the multimedia stream. In contrast, Hoffberg discloses different compression systems for pattern recognition. *See* col. 103:1-20. Or claim 56 recites that the segment group information indicates that the first segment group includes segments that represent highlights from the multimedia stream. In contrast, Hoffberg discloses that, for a group of individuals, a rule extraction technology highlights points of conflict between group members. *See* col. 145:45-60. Thus, Hoffberg also fails to disclose the subject matter of these dependent claims.

Independent claims 34, 38, 42 and 46, which recite methods, apparatus and a storage medium for processing or describing multimedia data, also require segment group information that is similar to that recited in claim 30. As discussed above, Hoffberg fails to disclose the claimed segment group information. Thus, independent claims 34, 38, 42 and 46 are allowable. Dependent claims 35-37, 39-41, 43-45 and 47-49 are allowable for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims.

CONCLUSION

Applicants' respectfully request that the pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue. Should the Examiner wish to discuss the Application, it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (415) 772-7493.

No additional fees are required for this amendment. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1597.

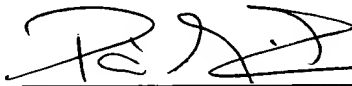
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11/7/06
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Respectfully submitted,

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